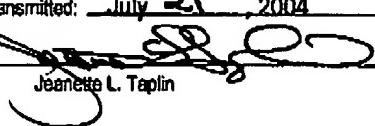


JUL 21 2004

PATENT  
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**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action mailed April 21, 2004, please enter the following Amendment:

**Amendments to the claims begin on the following page.**

**Remarks begin on page 5.**